

NewsLink

21 March - 4 April 2021



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear Friends,

It is almost impossible to believe that on 23rd March it will be a whole year since we first entered into what has become known as LOCKDOWN. 12 months on we have learnt a whole new vocabulary of Zoom, Track and Trace, Lateral Flow Tests, bubbles, social distance etc. We have laughed and we have cried, but most of all we have just tried to keep going, despite all.

We now face a second Easter in restricted circumstances, though at least this year we are able to gather for worship on Easter Sunday, albeit in a rather limited way.

We will all have different stories to share about the past year – stories of births, deaths and pretty well zero marriages. All three of those scenarios touched my own life in one way or another.

One of my most vivid memories was on the last day of the school term at Winsley School, singing socially distanced outdoor carols with the Open the Book Team, in the pouring rain and blowing a gale, whilst masked parents collected their children for the Christmas holidays. It was one of those moments when the determination to bless triumphed over Covid and the weather. *Good news of great joy, peace on earth, goodwill to all* was sung and lived. A bit of God's Kingdom hope shone out into the darkness. That image will stay with me forever.

I wonder what are your particular stories and memories? I hope over the coming months we will have the opportunity to share those stories – the laments, the longings, the strange and true and even the laughter.

On **Tuesday 23rd March** the nation will join together for a **Day of Reflection** with the opportunity to keep a minute's silence at mid-day. This is an initiative spearheaded by Marie Curie Cancer Care.



All the denominations and faith groups are supporting this campaign, which encourages us to **Reflect** through the shared moment of prayerful silence at 12 noon. It also calls us to **Connect** or reach out to someone who is going through bereavement, through simple acts of kindness. And finally, it calls us to show our **Support** by shining a light from our homes at 8.00pm.

The light is of course a powerful symbol of hope for Christians. Jesus described himself as 'The Light of the World' and we are called to be beacons of light and hope in our communities. Despite this challenging year, we have witnessed a lot of lights shining brightly in the way people have reached out to each other in loving kindness. As we mark this moment of remembering and reflection alongside Holy Week and Easter, may we remember that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. May our walk to the cross and the resurrection garden, be one of prayerful hope, giving us the strength to face the coming months.

This is a special prayer you may like to use on Tuesday and in the coming days.

*God of Love,
As we think about all that has changed this
year,
help us to trust that you are always with us.
As we remember those who have died,
help us to trust they are at peace with you.
As we reach out to others with kindness and
care,
may hope shine out in every heart and home.
Amen*

God bless you all at this poignant time,
Tessa
Rev Tessa Mann

Easter Services

We are pleased to be holding services in two of our churches on Easter Sunday but spaces are limited and you need to book a place.



4th April 10.00 am at St James' South Wraxall for congregations of South Wraxall and Monkton Farleigh. Contact David Wyper — 01225 865384 or Valentine Thornhill — 01225 862552 to book your place.

4th April 10.30 am at Christ Church for congregations of Christ Church and St Nicholas. To book your place, those from the congregation at Christ Church should contact Stephen and Hilary Pike on 01225 782537 (spaces are already filling up)

St Nicholas congregation should contact Roy Ludlow on 01225 868779 by 28th March (The congregation will receive an email from Roy with details next week).

Parking will be available at the Mount Pleasant centre but users must register their car number at the centre on arrival or risk a fine.

Our churches will be open as advertised for personal prayer and reflection.

Online services

Benefice online services over Easter will be advertised as usual and the link to Youtube will be available on the website.

Live Worship from Salisbury Cathedral.

The Chrism Eucharist on Maundy Thursday 1st April at 11.00am will be live from the Cathedral and Bishop Nicholas will be preaching at this and the three days of Easter as this will be his last Easter before he retires. The services will be streamed live at <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/live>

Christ Church Electoral Roll

Would anyone who would like to join the Electoral Roll of Christ Church, please contact the Rector or Rosemary Wiggins at Christ Church asap please.

Welcome Back Zoe!

Zoe Yeomans our Children's and Families worker writes, "Hello! Thank you all for welcoming me back last week. It has been lovely catching up with lots of you and seeing all the wonderful displays in each of our Churches. They really do look great!

I am looking forward to developing the work with children and families, in each school and Parish over these coming weeks, both leading up to Easter and afterwards as lockdown (hopefully) eases. Do get in touch if there is anything I can help with. See you soon!

Zoe (zyeomans3@gmail.com)".

St Nicholas Church opening times

To take account of the longer days, with effect from Sunday 21st March, we will be changing the daily opening times of St Nicholas Church to 10.00 - 18.00hrs.

The church is open for private prayer and personal reflection and has a number of displays to help people with their Lenten journey. The heating and lighting are on, so do drop by to spend some time in God's presence.

Coronavirus restrictions still apply so please wear a mask, sanitise your hands on arrival and departure, and maintain social distancing.

In the later pages of this week's Newlink you will find

- Details of Easter events at St Peter's
- Information about Spring Harvest at home 2021
- How to make your own Paschal candle
- A contribution from Rev Bernard Hughes on 'Justification'
- An update from The Hub BoA.
- And much more....

You can read the full version, and access our weekly online services on the website www.nboachurches.co.uk. If you require a hard copy please leave a message at the Benefice office on 01225 865046

Easter Cards

There are some Easter Cards that have kindly been given to St Nicholas Church. They are all new and anyone is welcome to help themselves. They are to be found just inside the church door in a box. A small donation would be welcome and could be placed in the wall safe that is to the right of the main door.

Mothering Sunday Posies

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make the beautiful posies of spring flowers which were left in each of our churches for people to collect and give to others with love for Mothering Sunday. At South Wraxall, as well as posies of flowers, twists of fragrant soap were left in the Church porch for villagers to take away as gifts for village Mums.



Keep the Easter flame alive in your home.



If you would like to know more about the symbolism of the Paschal candle, and how to make your own one at home, do look at the article by Michelle DiFranco which is [here](#) in the resources section of the website.

News from Lebanon

The latest news from Colin and Audrey Gibson, our partners with the Church Mission Society in Lebanon, is available [here](#) on our website.



Justification. The heart of the Christian Faith. Rev Bernard Hughes

Bernard Hughes writes '*Having written a brief item on this subject, I should like to continue with a further exploration on this basic doctrine of our Church*'.

Bernard's piece on the topic of Justification is rather too long to include here in Newslink, but we have uploaded it to the resources section of the Benefice website. Do enjoy this very interesting read [here](#).



Join Spring Harvest Home, 4th -8th April for a week of live worship, Bible teaching sessions, children's and youth content and much, much more. The best part? You can watch it all on demand!

The theme for 2021 is 'Unrivalled: Why we worship'. With the help of brilliant Worship Leaders and Speakers, they'll be looking at why we worship which starts with who we worship. Find out more and buy your tickets here: <https://springharvest.org/>

Update from The Hub in B-o-A

Avril Clarke from The Hub wrote with thanks for donations of food and finances. She sent the latest newsletter from the Hub and this is available [here](#) on the Benefice website.

She writes, 'We are beginning to think about how we will open to the general public but think it will probably be September before we are fully operational with coffee mornings etc.

We may well look at Wednesdays and Fridays allowing help to be offered within the Hub and as volunteers feel comfortable about returning once their second vaccine has taken effect, probably in May/June.

However, we continue to be available for food parcels and a small team of volunteers are usually available to help deliver the food parcels for those who are unable to collect. The school boxes and bags will be going out in a couple of weeks which a number of volunteers will hopefully be available to help with the delivery'.



**Easter at St. Peter's Church
Monkton Farleigh
2021**



*The Church will be open from 10.00-4.00
March 28th. – April 12th.*

Palm Sunday Walk - Sunday March 28th

Why not treat yourselves to a favourite family local walk? Print off a nature trail teaser from WhatsApp for the children or pick up a leaflet from the church porch. Return to the Church for your palm cross and mini Easter egg.

Saturday April 3rd.

Decorate yourselves (or your dog) with hats, face paints, dog collars...whatever takes your fancy. Collect chocolate Easter eggs in a cosy from the Church Porch.

The Easter Story

See the Easter story unfold in our Church, beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday, and explore the children's Easter trail in the Church yard.

The Church will be open on Saturday April 3rd (2.00-4.00) and on Easter Day, April 4th (10.00-4.00).

The Easter Experience Continues

The Easter Story continues to unfold each week in our churches. This week sees 'Alone in the Garden of Gethsemane' added to 'Hopes and Dreams', 'The Servant King' and 'The Last Supper'.

Do call in and take a look if you haven't already,



From the Church Times...

DAVE WALKER

LENT

WAYS TO MARK IT DURING LOCKDOWN

BY TAKING UP...

BY GIVING UP...

DID YOU BORROW MY BOOK?



A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

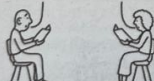
READING A LENT BOOK



A CREATIVE ENDEAVOUR

I THINK IT'S PRONOUNCED 'LIVE LENT'

NO, I'M SURE IT'S 'LIVE LENT'



DAILY ACTIONS FROM A BOOKLET



A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT



ONE OF THE THINGS WE HAVE TO GIVE UP ANYWAY



THE USUAL



READING BADLY RESEARCHED ARTICLES ABOUT THE CHURCH



NOTHING - THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES



JUST GENERALLY GIVING UP

Ministry Team

Rector Rev Ann Keating
Rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com (722230)
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)
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Benefice Office

Denise Button (865046)
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Church Wardens

Winsley:
Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds Batson (720069)
Christ Church: Vacant
Monkton Farleigh: Vacant: Contact Rachel Exley
PCC Secretary (851485)
South Wraxall:
Dave Wyper (865384) Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Denise Leigh (863916)
Stephen Pike (782537)
Denise Davies (863678)
Gill Fairhurst (867560)
Daphne Cox (868224)
Elizabeth Bush (866624)
James Middleton (920564)

Children's and Families Worker

Zoe Yeomans - zyeomans3@gmail.com

Do check the website as resources are added regularly and check Instagram and Facebook for all our latest news.